



# IDE NEWSLETTER



**Brigade Combat Team**  
Project Management Office

*It is my pleasure to announce  
the official production version of the  
Brigade Combat Team  
Integrated Digital Environment!!*

**Expected IDE  
Rollout:  
April 2003**

## LEADERSHIP VISION

I am proud to "cut the ribbon" on this BCT Integrated Digital Environment. It has been a dream of mine, and every PM, to have such a tool at our disposal. This IDE is a first step, but a very important step in moving the Army forward by exploiting what new technology can offer to help re-shape the Army and better meet the needs of the project manager. Ultimately, IDE efforts like ours will span



across all the acquisition functions and be integrated across the entire acquisition lifecycle. The result will be a fully integrated network of IDEs, which support the development efforts, our business vendors, and the O&S functions across the entire business environment and throughout the acquisition cycle. I now issue this challenge to you to exploit the value that this IDE can offer to you. I have high hopes for the continued success of this system and challenge you to make every effort to explore this system, test its new levels of performance, and find it a valuable tool. Please give the system a fair test during the next three months. This test period will culminate with a formal IDE assessment effort to determine if we should remain committed to IDE development or re-shape the effort to better meet our program needs.

- Colonel R. David Ogg



## SPOTLIGHT: IDE PHASE I COMPLETED!!!

It has been a long road, but we will soon mark the completion of Phase I of the BCT Integrated Digital Environment effort. Our journey has had many triumphs and a few set backs. But overall, we are extremely proud of what we have accomplished in the last two years. In that time, we have implemented a successful public website and added a secure private website. By doing so, we have established ourselves as a global player in the e-Business world. We have implemented key information technology tools, such as document management, to provide our workforce with state-of-the-art information sharing tools, in working towards a collaborative working environment. We have forged an exceptional relationship with our prime contractor, working together to assure our information systems are fully integrated and capable of meeting the production data needs of Joint Venture and BCT managers. Our success is defined as providing the BCT family workforce with the latest information, managerial tools, and support solutions to better enable you to face the challenges presented in managing the Army's most successful vehicle program.



# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

## IMPROVED FOLDER NAVIGATION

The development system used the standard commercial version of Oracle iFS. That version had the problem of the Directory Tree (left side of screen) not remaining consistently positioned as you moved from one folder to another. Our EDS system integrators enhanced the out-of-the-box iFS application to remedy this weakness. The new Production IDE has been adapted to solve this problem and we are confident that you will find iFS to be even more user friendly and also find it faster to move from one folder to another.

## DRAG AND DROP AVAILABLE

With the IDE servers being moved from Orlando, FL, to onsite within TACOM, a new process to upload multiple files into iFS will be made possible. Currently, in order to upload multiple files into iFS, users need to select each one separately and repeat the process of uploading each file (one at a time) within iFS until all files have been uploaded. With the new process, called Drag and Drop, users can select multiple files, and multiple folders that contain multiple files, to drag and drop from one window into another.

You may be already familiar with this drag and drop process if you've ever copied files from one directory on your PC to another - this process for uploading files into iFS is done the same way. We are certain that you will appreciate the convenience of migrating files that you have created into iFS in this manner. Rather than providing you the steps involved in this process here, we have developed a tutorial that will guide you through the steps. It will show you how to upload both files and folders into iFS. This tutorial can be found within the iFS Directory Tree (on the left side of the iFS Home Page). Expand the Directory Tree in this order: Mount Points\Library\Reference Material\Tutorials. Once the Tutorials folder has been highlighted, select the "Drag and Drop Tutorial" from the File List - when prompted, select Open, and the tutorial will launch. Follow the instructions on the screen - it should take less than 30 minutes to complete. Once you've finished the tutorial, you will be able to upload multiple files (or folders) into iFS in no time at all!

### NEED HELP?

Anytime you need IDE assistance, or have any questions, please contact the PM-BCT IDE Help Desk:

Phone: 248-265-6020

E-mail: [pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com](mailto:pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com)



**BCT/EDS**



This BCT IDE Newsletter is a joint production effort, edited by BCT with support from EDS.

## IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

The entire BCT IDE effort has undergone several major changes during its development period. The effort has had major revisions to its fundamental tenets impacting funding, scope, and breadth of user community. In addition to these major changes, we have continued to incorporate many significant efforts resulting in better training, integrated feedback, and better communicating the opportunities which the IDE can provide.

The performance results that users can expect within TACOM are illustrated in the chart below.

File Size	Old Development IDE System		New Production IDE System	
	Upload (in seconds)	Download (in seconds)	Upload (in seconds)	Download (in seconds)
1 MB	49	25	5	1
2 MB	92	41	6	2
10 MB	260	156	23	6

## THE NEW IDE: FAST FACTS

**Who will be impacted:** The BCT IDE users will see the biggest improvement in performance. By performance, we mean the speed that files can be uploaded or downloaded from the iFS document management system.

**What has changed:** Faster performance, additional capability of being able to drag and drop multiple folders and files into iFS, and we have improved the folder navigation. New applications include Milestone III support and the BCT Knowledge Center. We have just begun to explore concepts regarding the creation of a Logistics Information Station to aid the distribution and update of critical manuals, publication, and other information sources.

**When:** The rollout date is expected to occur during April 2003. Additional details will be provided as the rollout date nears.

**How:** As users of this new production system, you should not notice any significant changes in how you log into or in using the new system. All your data will be right where you left it. All actions and commands will be the same.

**Why:** This rollout is being implemented to make the system faster and easier for you to use, and to make the BCT IDE system a more valuable information asset in performing your daily activities.

